

REMARKS

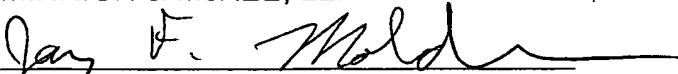
In the Office Action dated July 5, 2006, claims 28-31 were said to be withdrawn from further consideration in connection with the instant application. Claim 24 was objected to. Claims 3, 5, 6, 24-27, 44 and 47-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,015,253 to MacGregor as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,579,767 to Prince and is further evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 6,156,062 to McGuinness, U.S. Patent No. 6,425,915 to Khosravi et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,569,191 to Hogan. Claims 12-16 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacGregor in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,015,387 to Schwartz et al. On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner suggested some language to make the claims allowable over the prior art of record.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of providing a telephonic interview to applicant's attorney on October 16, 2006. During the interview, the language proposed on page 5 of the Office Action was discussed, together with some further changes to the claims to clarify them and make them internally consistent. It is believed that an agreement was reached with regard to these claims. However, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should any further language changes be necessary in any of the enclosed claims.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP

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Date



Jay F. Moldovanyi, Reg. No. 29,678
1100 Superior Avenue, Seventh Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114-2579
216-861-5582